

hollywood q&a

By Adam Thomlison
TV Media

Q: Any news on what Heidi Klum and Tim Gunn are doing post-“Project Runway”?

A: Fans have been waiting with varying levels of patience for this news for nearly a year, since supermodel Heidi Klum and fashion designer Tim Gunn shocked the reality TV world by announcing their exit from the long-running hit “Project Runway.”

They said at the time they'd be launching a new series on Amazon Prime's web streaming service, but nothing more was known about it — until recently.

Amazon announced a few weeks ago that the show would be called “Making the Cut” and is slated to premiere in 2020 (they weren't generous with details).

The first season will feature “12 talented entrepreneurs and designers from around the globe who are competing to take their fledgling brands to the next level in becoming the next big global phenomenon.”

If that sounds comfortingly “Project Runway”-esque, you'll be further comforted by the fact that Amazon shared photos from an episode that include a “runway challenge” in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Gunn and Klum won't have to do all the celebrity work on their own, either. The first season will feature judges including supermodel Naomi Campbell and former reality star (and now a fashion designer in her own right) Nicole Richie.

Q: Many, many fans in discussion groups regarding “Father Brown” are wanting to know the manufacturer and pattern name of that beautiful tea set used in the kitchen scenes. It's turquoise and white, trimmed in gold. Any help is greatly appreciated.

A: The internet is indeed full of speculation about this burning (or maybe boiling) question, so I went to the man himself for the final word — not the constantly curious clergyman Father Brown, of course, as he's a fictional character. Instead, I

found the next best thing, but you're not going to like what he said.

“There are no markings anywhere on the set,” said Iain Downes, props buyer on the most recent season of “Father Brown.” He actually pulled the set out to check for a maker's mark, just to be sure. “I presume it's from a company ‘inspired’ by a more famous brand.”

That inspiration seems to be the Wedgwood Ulander Powder Turquoise tea set. Wedgwood is a famous brand indeed — it's a luxury china company founded in England in 1759, so the location is certainly right. However many of the details aren't.

The Wedgwood tea pot has turquoise and gold on the lid and handles, while the “Father Brown” set has a white lid and handles. And in some of the scenes I looked at, it appears the actors are using pieces from different, mismatched sets, and in some scenes — gasp — they're using coffee cups instead of tea cups.

While all of this may make anglophiles and tea purists a little faint, it might actually speak to the show's attempts — indeed, Downes' attempts — at a different sort of authenticity.

Remember that the set in question is the one in the residence of a poor, country clergyman in the years after World War II. With that in mind, owning a knockoff set would be likely, and it would in fact be unlikely that the rectory would have a complete set of anything — breakages happen, pieces get lost and so on. It would make sense for the father, or his helpful Mrs. McCarthy, to replace them with a piece as similar-looking as could be found in the parish.

I apologize in advance to lovers of the set. I told Downes about the lengths that dedicated viewers such as yourself had gone to in search of an answer, and he joked that he might retire the set from the show to avoid “driv[ing] fans over the edge.”

Have a question? Email us at questions@tvtabloid.com. Please include your name and town. Personal replies will not be provided.

▶ STREAMING THIS WEEK



Whitney Cummings headlines “Whitney Cummings: Can I Touch It?”

By Shona Dustan
TV Media

WHAT'S NEW ON NETFLIX

“Whitney Cummings: Can I Touch It?”

You may be surprised at how prolific comedian Whitney Cummings is. She created and wrote both hit comedy series “2 Broke Girls” and “Whitney,” produced the revival of “Roseanne” (which, sadly, imploded after its star made a controversial tweet and was condemned as racist), and is currently creating a series called “Good People” with Lisa Kudrow (“Friends”) and Oscar nominee Lee Daniels (“Empire”). On top of all that, her sixth comedy special premieres Tuesday, July 30, on Netflix. Filmed in Washington, D.C., Cummings' hometown, the standup special features a broad range of topics, from women's issues (so many hilarious women's issues!) to politics and more. What topics will she “touch”? You'll have to watch to find out.

“The Letdown” Season 2

This Australian comedy follows Audrey (Alison Bell, “Tomorrow, When the War Began”), a new mom struggling with new-mom things. She's determined not to let motherhood define her completely, but her often hilarious efforts to get out and live her life tend to fail miserably. Complicating her crazy life is a narcissistic mother (Sarah Peirse, “Offspring”), a workaholic husband (Duncan Fellows, “Secret City”), and a best friend who has no idea what it's like to be as tied down as Audrey is. As she navigates the ups and downs of parenthood and struggles with her disappearing identity — some serious, difficult subject matter — Audrey keeps us in stitches with visits to her wacky mom's group, attempts to get her baby to sleep (night driving, anyone?) and more. Season 1 of “The Letdown” was released last year, and you can stream Season 2 starting Wednesday, July 31.

“Dear White People” Season 3

This critically acclaimed series sprung from a 2014 film of the same name and is now kicking off its third season. The show follows a group of students at Winchester University, a predominantly white school. Each episode follows characters like Samantha White (Logan Browning, “Powers”), a black student trying to wake up her peers to the struggles that people of color face in today's society. It's a series that will make you feel all the feelings. It swings from poignant to cheeky, heartbreaking to hilarious — it's refreshing to watch a show that not only tackles big issues such as discrimination and privilege, but also little issues that we each face daily, the things that are important to us, even though they won't change the world. It's a wonderful combination that works, and if you're not a fan already, it won't take long for you to get sucked in. The first and second seasons of the show are streaming now, and the third season lands Friday, Aug. 2.

“The Red Sea Diving Resort” (2019)

On Wednesday, July 31, you can watch this action-packed film. Starring Chris Evans (“The Avengers: End Game,” 2019), Sir Ben Kingsley

(“Sexy Beast,” 2000), Michael K. Williams (“The Wire”), Michiel Huisman (“Game of Thrones”) and Greg Kinnear (“Little Miss Sunshine,” 2006), the film is based on the non-fiction book “Mossad Exodus,” by Gad Shimron, who was one of the agents who participated in the mass removal of Jewish Ethiopians from Sudan in the early 1980s. When the Israeli prime minister ordered Mossad to save thousands of refugees in the Sudan and deliver them to Israel, agents set up a secret base in a holiday village to facilitate the smuggling of the refugees. This true story is compelling and will keep you at the edge of your seat.

WHAT'S NEW ON HULU

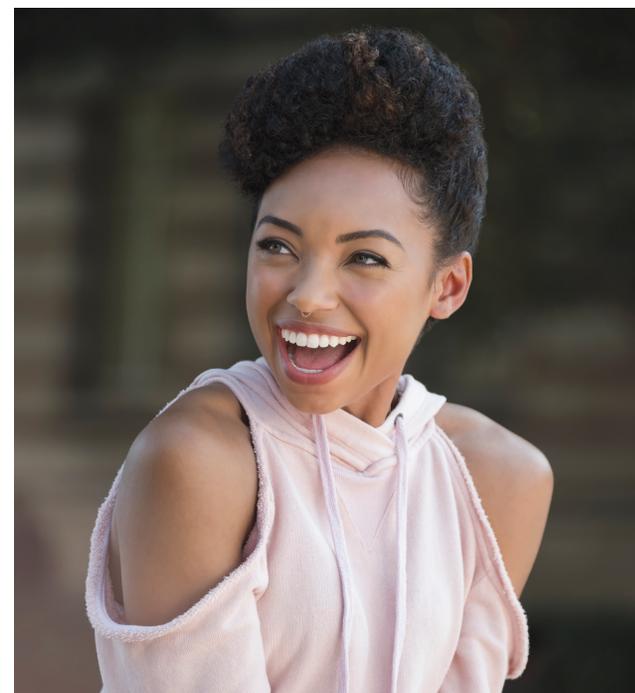
“Four Weddings and a Funeral”

If you were sentient in the '90s, I'm willing to bet you remember the 1994 film that introduced the world to Hugh Grant's charmingly befuddled screen persona, which would serve him well in romcoms for years to come. Richard Curtis wrote the screenplay, and he's on board as executive producer for this new miniseries premiering Wednesday, July 31. The series was adapted for TV by Mindy Kaling and her fellow writer/producer for “The Mindy Project,” Matt Warburton, and follows the young-adult ups and downs of Maya (Nathalie Emmanuel, “Game of Thrones”), Ainsley (Rebecca Rittenhouse, “Blood & Oil”), Craig (Brandon Mychal Smith, “Gridiron Gang,” 2006) and Duffy (John Reynolds, “Stranger Things”) — four old friends who reunite for a wedding in London. When a bombshell is dropped at the altar, what follows is a year of love, laughs, heartbreak, drama and self-reflection. And, presumably, four weddings and a funeral.

WHAT'S NEW ON AMAZON PRIME

“This Is Football”

It may seem odd to those of us who can't muster up a shred of interest in soccer (yeah, that football), but the fact is, it's the most popular sport in the world. It's played by 250 million people in more than 200 countries, and I'm not sure if you've noticed, but the World Cup is kind of a big deal. This six-part documentary series streams Friday, Aug. 2, and examines the effect the sport has had on players and fans, from individuals to whole countries, and the stories, emotions and triumphs of those who pursue it with a passion. It features interviews and insight from legendary players and figures in the sport and delivers a look at it as a worldwide phenomenon, with filming taking place in the United States, Argentina, China, Spain, Rwanda and Iceland.



Logan Browning stars in “Dear White People”